



Welcome Aboard

Welcome to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. You will soon become an integral part of the Marine Corps' premier aviation training base, serving alongside approximately 5,000 fellow active duty Marines and sailors. With access to 2.8 million acres of bombing and aviation training ranges and superb flying weather, MCAS Yuma supports 80 percent of the Corps' air-to-ground aviation training. The air station annually hosts about 50 aviation units, bringing an average of 500 aircraft and 9,000 personnel for ongoing training that takes place throughout the year.

Whether you're assigned to the air station or one of the tenant commands, your stay here is sure to be an enjoyable one.



The ideal weather and location along the Colorado River make Yuma and the surrounding area an oasis in the southwestern Sonoran Desert. The area offers a variety of recreational opportunities and water sports as well as seasonal hunting and fishing.

Nestled in five square miles of south-eastern Yuma, the air station is home to a number of tenant units including Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1, Marine Aircraft Group-13, Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, Marine Fighter Training Squadron-401, Marine Air Control Squadron-1 (Reinforced) and Combat Service Support Detachment-16.



Directions

The main gate is located on Avenue 3E, which has access to Interstate 8. Maps of the air station and the local area are available at the main gate. Personnel arriving by commercial airline can telephone the Officer of the Day at (928) 269-2252, using the courtesy phone at Yuma International Airport. The MCAS duty driver will pick them up and give them a ride to the base.

Reporting In

Upon arrival at MCAS Yuma between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, Station personnel will check in at Station Headquarters, building 980, or phone (928) 269-2864.

Personnel ordered to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing units based at Yuma who report between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, will check in at the

Marine Aircraft Group-13 Headquarters, Building 505, or phone (928) 269-3262.

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 Marines who report between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, will check in at Building 506, or phone (928) 269-2058.

Those personnel reporting to Marine Fighter Training Squadron-401, who report between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, will check in at Building 146, or phone squadron administration at (928) 269-5502.

Reporting After Hours

After close of business on weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, personnel should report to the MCAS Officer of the Day, Building 980, or phone (928) 269-2252.

Temporary Lodging

Dos Rios Inn

Bldg. 1088(928) 269-2262

Located at Shaw Ave. and Hart St. (by the Chapel), the Dos Rios temporary lodging facility has 36 rooms, including 22 kitchenette suites - each with two queen-size beds, 12 king rooms - each with one king-size bed, and two conjoining rooms with kitchen. Rates - \$40 King, \$45 Suites, \$75 conjoining.

Check in, check out, and reservations are received 24 hours a day.

Housing

Military personnel with accompanying family members reporting for duty on PCS orders are required to report to the station Housing Office, Building 1080. It is important that no commitments for housing in the local community be made by incoming personnel without checking the current housing application policy. A Family Housing Application (DD-Form 1746) must be completed at the office upon arrival if you are interested in residing in base housing. This form may be mailed but does not preclude the requirement to report to the Housing Office within 30 days of arrival. Applicants' names will be made active on the waiting list when they report to the office in person. The control date for the waiting list will be the date of detachment from the last permanent duty station. Failure to report within 30 calendar days will change the control date to the date the applicant reports to the Housing Office.





WELCOME



MCAS Yuma base housing consists of 821 units, 743 for enlisted personnel and 78 officer units. The following is a breakdown of unit composition:

Enlisted (E1-E5)	SNCO (E6-E9)
322 – 2 Bedroom	151 – 3 Bedroom
186 – 3 Bedroom	46 – 4 Bedroom
38 – 4 Bedroom	
Company Grade (W1-W5, 01-03)	Field Grade (04-06)
8 – 2 Bedroom	6 – 3 Bedroom
46 – 3 Bedroom	4 – 4 Bedroom
14 – 4 Bedroom	4 – 4 Bedroom

The inventory of housing units is comprised of various styles and types varying in age from 1 to 35 years. Most units are frame and stucco townhouse-type structures with the living area on the first and bedrooms on the second floor. All units exceed the minimum square foot living standards. At the end of 2004 major renovation and replacement construction has been completed on 45 percent of the housing inventory. The remaining inventory

will be renovated or replaced during 2005, 2006 and part of 2007 greatly enhancing the quality of housing and recreational amenities. Construction activities will cause a slight increase in waiting periods and is reflected below.

Quarters are not usually available for immediate occupancy, resulting in varying waiting periods for appropriate housing. The following are estimated waiting periods:

Enlisted	
2 BDRM	06 – 08 MONTHS
3 BDRM	06 – 08 MONTHS
4 BDRM	06 – 08 MONTHS
SNCO	
3 BDRM	01 – 02 MONTHS
4 BDRM	08 – 10 MONTHS
Company Grade Officers	
2 BDRM	01 – 02 MONTHS
3 BDRM	00 – 02 MONTHS
Field Grade Officers	
3 BDRM	00 – 02 MONTHS
4 BDRM	04 – 06 MONTHS

There are 128 two-bedroom Enlisted apartments located at 3100 W. 16th Street, approximately seven miles from the Air Station. Referred to as 16th Street Housing, the units are equipped with kitchen appliances including garbage disposals, and a community center complete with weight room.

The station has no spaces for privately owned mobile homes. However, many mobile home parks are available throughout the local community. Additionally, the Dos Rios Inn is the only temporary lodging and temporary government quarters available.

Pets must be kept tied or within a fence at the resident's property. While being walked, the pet must be kept on a leash. For a more complete list of MCAS regulations, consult Station Order 6400.1D.

Operation and Management of the housing units is performed by the PPV partner Lincoln Properties. Their office hours are Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information contact them at (928) 344-1240.

The Housing Referral Office is open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. For additional information, contact the Housing Referral Office at (928) 269-2661.

Traffic Management Office (TMO)

The Traffic Management Office, Installation and Logistics (I&L) Department, Building 328W, 2nd deck. The Freight Operations branch, however, is located in Building 324. The division is responsible for personal property (household goods) shipments, passenger transportation, and freight operations services aboard MCAS Yuma. Questions in these areas can be answered at the following numbers:





PERSONAL PROPERTY BRANCH

(Bldg. 328W, 2nd deck)

Information desk	269-2311
Inbound.....	269-2544
Loss/Damage Claims	269-2315

PASSENGER TRAVEL BRANCH

(Bldg. 328W, 2nd deck)

Official Travel.....	269-2735
Passports.....	269-2860
Port Calls.....	269-2735

FREIGHT OPERATIONS BRANCH

(Bldg. 324, behind bldg. 328W)

Information Desk.....	269-2744
Shipment Planning	269-2743
FedEx	269-3246, 3678
Packing and Packaging/Shipping	269-3246

Personal Property and Passenger Travel Branch customer parking is located on the south side of Building 328W. Entrance to these offices is also on the south side of Building 328W, 2nd deck.

Vehicle Registration

Personnel reporting for duty must register their vehicles with the Pass and Registration Office, located in Building 952, just inside the main gate, within 30 days of their reporting date.

The driver must present a current and valid state registration, driver's license and proof of liability insurance required

under Arizona law (\$15,000 per person, \$30,000 per accident, and \$10,000 for property coverage).

Privately owned vehicles traveling aboard the air station are subject to spot checks by military police for current state and base registration and safety inspections.

In addition to all vehicle registration requirements, motorcycle operators must pass a motorcycle safety course offered by the air station's Ground Safety Department prior to the issuance of a decal.

Firearms Registration

All firearms and dangerous weapons, to include BB guns, pellet guns, blow guns, air-operated weapons, K-bars and hunting knives with blade lengths over four inches, bows and arrows, dart guns and sling shots, must be presented to and registered at the Pass and Registration Office, Building 952, telephone number (928) 269-2888, within 24 hours of the first work day after the weapon is brought aboard the station. While pending registration, firearms and dangerous weapons will not be maintained in the bachelor enlisted quarters, Dos Rios Inn or inside a privately owned vehicle. These firearms and weapons will be stored in the unit armory. Firearms and dangerous weapons not properly registered or stored are subject to confiscation by Military Police.

Pet Registration

Dogs and cats living on station must be registered with the MCAS Veterinary Service within seven days of arrival.

Arizona law requires that all dogs be vaccinated and licensed at age four months. New residents of Yuma County have 30 days to comply with this regulation. The license fee is \$12.00 for pets that have been spayed or neutered and \$20.00 for pets that haven't been spayed or neutered. This fee is renewable annually.

There is no county requirement for the licensure of cats. Licenses are obtained through the Yuma County Humane Society located at 285 N. Figueroa, or by calling (928) 782-1621.

After going to the Humane Society, pets need to be registered at the Provost Marshal's Office, Building 952. There is no cost for registration, but proof of rabies vaccination for cats and dogs and Humane Society registration for dogs must be presented.

Dogs should also be vaccinated against distemper, parvo and corona viruses and cats should be vaccinated against distemper and leukemia. The distemper/parvo vaccinations for puppies is a three-shot series and should be administered over a 3-4 week span, beginning at the age of 6-8 weeks. Rabies shots should be given at 18 weeks of age. For cats, the FVRCP/Chlamydia vaccination is a three-shot series administered over a 3-4 week span, beginning at the age of 6-8 weeks. Canary pox rabies shots should be given at 18 weeks of age.

MCAS Veterinary Services is located in Building 591, adjacent to the commissary. The veterinarian comes from the Army's Yuma Proving Ground once or twice a month, depending on the number of appointments. To make an appointment, call the YPG Veterinary Services at (928) 328-2064. You may also have your pets vaccinated by a civilian veterinarian, but need to show proof to the Pass and Registration office upon registering your pet(s).

Horses may be stabled at the Broken Gate Saddle Club Stables on base. Contact Veterinary Services before stabling for requirements.

For any additional information concerning animals or pet registration, contact the veterinary service at (928) 269-2411 or (928) 328-2064.





Services on Station

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

“Taking care of our own,” the age-old adage of the Marine Corps, accurately describes the mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Located in Building 645, the Society provides services for active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents. Using donated funds, the primary mission of the society is to assist eligible people to cope with immediate financial emergencies and needs. The office is staffed with trained volunteers who give financial counseling to enable clients to live within their means on a continuing basis. Interested volunteers should call or drop by the office for more information.

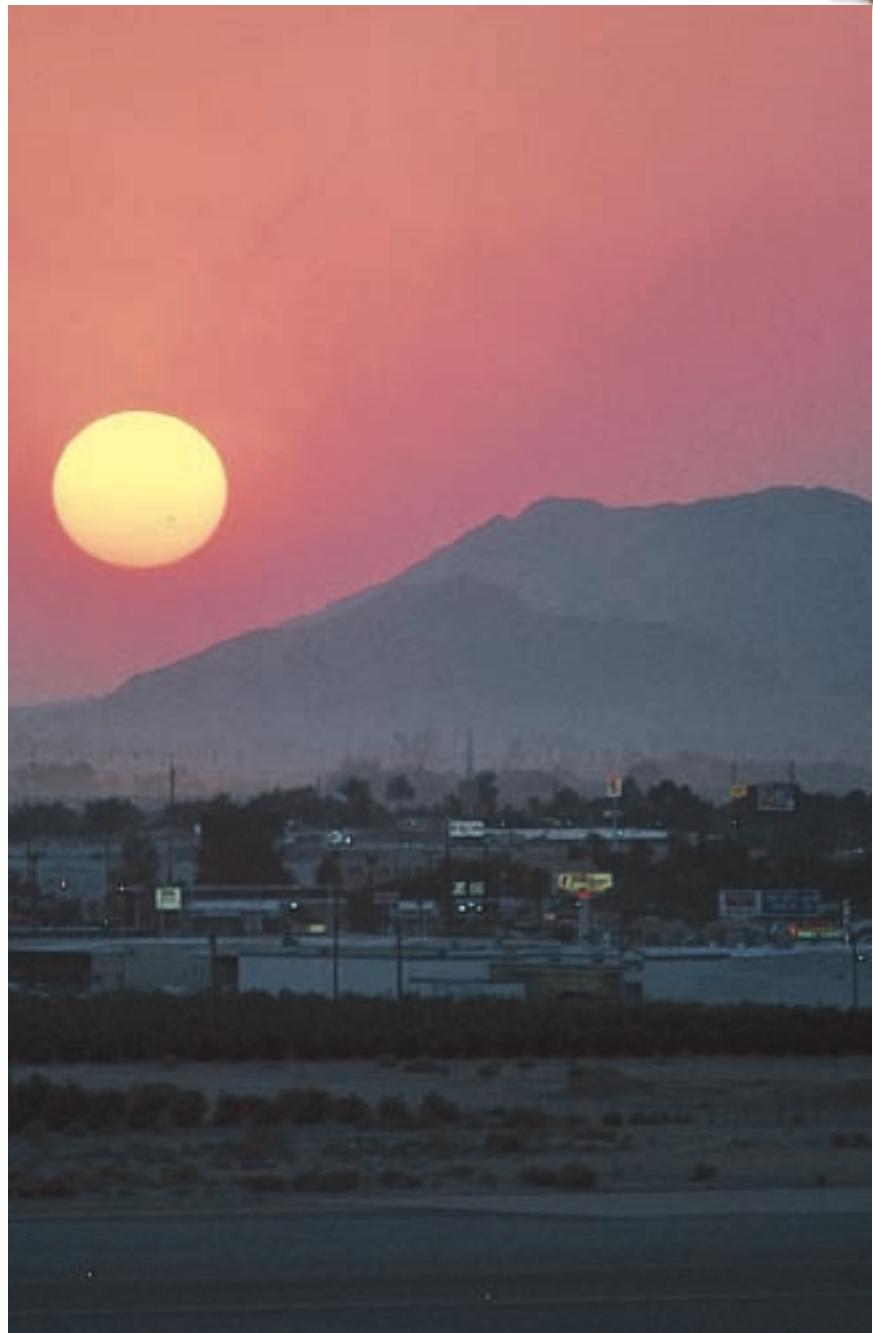


Assistance may be provided through confidential counseling, interest-free loans or grants, and referrals to various other agencies. To schedule an appointment for assistance, call the office at (928) 269-2373. Emergencies will be seen as soon as possible; an appointment is NOT necessary. Normal operating hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NMCRS Yuma is pleased to have a Visiting Nurse. The nurse is routinely available to provide home visits to Navy and Marine Corps families with health education questions or problems. The nurse's hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. When possible, the Visiting Nurse does hospital visits at Yuma Regional Medical Center for all Navy and Marine Corps military and family members pre-natal, post-operative, and post-partum mother/newborn visits are done in the home on an appointment basis, along with pediatric visits, medical/surgical visits, and others. Please keep in mind that the Visiting Nurse is not designed to meet emergency needs. To contact the Nurse, call (928) 269-5401.

Layettes (worth \$60-\$65) are available to all ranks, Navy and Marine Corps, and their family members when expecting a child. Expectant parents may attend the Budget for Baby Class prior to the birth of their baby and receive a layette. This class is a financial planning tool to get ready for the added expenses of another family member. Parents may still qualify for the layette up to one month after the baby is born, by having a one-on-one budget done in the office. Layettes contain a towel and washcloth, crib sheets, blankets, sleepers, onesies, booties, baby book and more.

The NMCRS Thrift Shop is located in Building 645 and operates Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The shop is run by volunteers and contains lots of useable items for sale at low cost. The shop is run by volunteers and contains a good selection of useable uniforms, household items, and clothing for sale at reasonable prices. Good, durable, re-saleable items may be left in the box beside the building or be brought into the shop during open hours. Money made through sales goes directly back to help Marines and sailors in need. Contact the shop during operating hours at (928) 269-2033.



For financial emergencies after hours and on weekends, call the American Red Cross Emergency Service Center, toll-free at 1-877-272-7337.

Medical

The Branch Medical Clinic is located in Building 1175; it is the station's only Medical Treatment Facility. The Clinic's mission is to provide safe, effective, and efficient outpatient care to active duty service

members, their family members, and retirees. The clinic provides basic Family Practice Medicine; they have a full ancillary department, and a limited number of specialty services. The clinic is part of the PRIME TRICARE network; patients must enroll through the TRICARE Service Center to receive care. TRICARE is an enrollment-based system devised to provide beneficiaries with a Primary Care Manager who will assess each patient's medical needs and provide appropriate medical



SERVICES ON STATION



care. The TRICARE Service Center, located next to the Branch Medical Clinic, provides medical benefit and enrollment information for family members and retirees. The MCAS community has over 12,000 DoD beneficiaries; approximately 6,000 are enrolled and treated at the Branch Medical Clinic. The remaining 6,000 are enrolled through the local TRICARE network in the Yuma community.

All inpatient care for active duty service members, their family members, and retirees is provided through Yuma Regional Medical Center, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the first & third Saturday of each month from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. For an appointment please call the appointment line at (928) 269-2700 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For urgent care after hours and on weekends please call the Clinic Duty Officer at pager (928) 376-2282.

All emergencies are handled by the local civilian hospital. For emergency assistance call 911. The Base Fire Department provides ambulance service for on-base emergencies.

Dental

The MCAS Yuma Dental Clinic is co-located with the Branch Medical Clinic in Building 1175. The main clinic is staffed by five dental officers, ten dental technicians and one civilian assistant. The clinic offers a variety of services including: restorative, endodontics, periodontics, and prosthodontic care. Orthodontic service is unavailable. Any necessary dental specialty procedure that cannot be performed here will usually be referred to the Naval Dental Center in San Diego.

Sick call appointments are available daily Monday thru Friday on a walk-in basis from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments for active duty members can be made through unit dental representative, by telephone or by walk-in at the Dental Clinic appointment desk. Sick call patients in pain are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Presently, dental care for dependents of active duty members, retirees and their dependents is not available. The Dental Corps recommends that active duty service members with families



enroll in the TRICARE Dental Plan. Information is available at your unit personnel office. A list of local dentists who participate in the TRICARE Dental plan is available at the clinic.

For additional information, call the MCAS Dental Clinic at (928) 269-2353 or (928) 269-2927. For emergencies after working hours, on weekends and holidays, call (928) 269-2353, or page the Duty Dental Technician, pager number (928) 269-2828 and enter 440.

Legal Assistance

The Joint Law Center, Legal Assistance Office, provides legal services, assistance and advice to active duty, retirees and their family members with valid Armed Forces Identification Cards.

The Legal Assistance Office prepares wills, powers of attorney, military vehicle exemptions and immigration and naturalization forms. Advice concerning divorce, child custody and support, debtor/creditor, landlord/tenant, immigration and naturalization and other legal matters is also available. All services provided are free. Notary public services, powers of attorney and military vehicle exemption forms can be handled on a walk-in basis. Appointments are encouraged for all other legal matters.

The Legal Assistance Office is located in Building 1211. To contact by telephone, please call (928) 269-3636.

Religious Assistance

The Command Religious Program, headquartered in the beautiful MCAS Yuma Chapel, Buildings 1176, 1177 and 1178, includes a 500-seat sanctuary, educational classrooms, fellowship spaces, and offices. A full religious program, including Catholic and Protestant services, is offered, with weekly events listed below:

Catholic	
Sunday Mass	9:30 a.m.
Sunday CCD (Sept-May)	8:15 a.m.
Daily Mass (Mon-Thurs)	7:00 a.m.
Protestant	
Sunday Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.

The chapel holds additional programs such as retreats, marriage preparation workshops, Bible studies, small groups, Vacation Bible School, and seasonal activities. Call the chapel at (928) 269-2371 for information. Chaplains and religious ministry are available to all military personnel and family members. Station chaplains can be contacted during normal working hours at the chapel.

Yuma's 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing chaplains support all FMF units here and offer assistance and programs to the Marines and families of their commands. Marines and family members assigned to MAG-13 commands, MWSS-371 and MACS-1, can reach their chaplains at Building 112 or

phone (928) 269-3454. A 24-hour duty chaplain covers MCAS and 3d MAW after 4 p.m. and on holidays and weekends. For assistance requiring the duty chaplain, contact the MCAS Officer of the Day at (928) 269-2252.

Postal

The Post Office, located in Building 699, serves as both a United States Post Office and Military Postal Facility.

The USPS can handle all personal postal needs from stamp purchases to express mail. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. It is closed daily from 1 to 1:30 p.m., for lunch. For additional information, call (928) 344-3418.





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Mail for military personnel who receive their mail through their work sections and all official mail is handled by the Military Postal Facility. Its hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All check in/out will be conducted between the hours of 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All outgoing official mail must be presented to the military post office by 2:30 p.m.

Incoming personnel may contact the military post office for correct mailing addresses prior to arrival. Each unit is structured with an individual box number style address format. Personnel residing in the barracks will receive their own personal post office box located at the post office to receive their personal mail at their convenience. Personnel living in base housing or off base will receive their mail at their place of residence. To expedite the deliveries of your personal mail at your residence on base or off, call the military post office for your proper USPS address format with zip+4. For additional information, call the facility at (928) 269-2162/3119 or fax your request to (928) 269-3717.

Safety

The MCAS Yuma Department of Safety and Standardization is located in Building 645, 2nd Floor. They support all military personnel and federal employees aboard MCAS Yuma ensuring safe and healthy conditions are provided both on and off duty. The DSS is comprised of two divisions; Aviation Safety and Ground Safety. The Aviation Division provides Aviation Safety, NATOPS, and Standardization Support. The Ground Safety Division provides Occupational Safety and Health, Traffic and Recreational Safety, and Explosives and Tactical Safety. Additionally, the Industrial Hygienist (I.H.), under the command of MCB Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital, is co-located with DSS due to the close affiliation regarding Occupational Health.

DSS and the I.H. staff are professionals who provide oversight, training, and assistance in coordination with tenant units and organizations. Reports of unsafe and unhealthful working conditions (NAVMC 11401) are to be addressed through the immediate supervisor. Any person desiring anonymity may submit the form by

dropping it into an "Any mouse" box (located at various locations on the station) or at the DSS office.

Any and all safety issues that need to be addressed can be referred to DSS for action. Support for inspections, briefs and classes are always available upon request. DSS is open Monday through Friday, 0730-1530. For more information, call (928) 269-5611.

Commissary

The Commissary carries brand name groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, USDA choice meats, dairy products,

Holidays	Closed
Sunday	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



frozen foods and household supplies. Special orders are available for special functions or specific needs.

The hours of operation for the Commissary are as follows:

The Commissary will open 30 minutes prior to normal hours of operation for the handicapped and elderly.

For information about store hours or to reach Customer Service, please call (928) 269-5333/2245/6720. Our Web site is www.commissaries.com.

Financial Institutions

Armed Forces Bank

Armed Forces Bank is located at the corner of Thomas and Hart Streets. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and paydays. A walk up ATM is located at the front of the building. ATM's are also located in the 7-Day Store and in the Service Station on Base.

Armed Forces Bank, a national bank, specializes in military banking and has served active duty, retirees and civilians since 1907. Customers can bank worldwide by phone, mail, internet, and ATMs. The bank provides round-the-clock customer support with a 24/7 call

center (bank employees are available to assist you), a 24-hour account information line, online banking, and through the major ATM networks.

Armed Forces Bank offers a variety of services to include free checking, regular checking, interest bearing checking, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, individual retirement accounts, and loans (consumer, auto, home). Additionally, the bank offers competitive deposit and loan rates, travelers checks, cashiers checks, money orders, Master Card and Visa, and many other services.

Armed Forces Bank ATM cards can be used at any ATM displaying these networks: Armed Forces Financial Network, PLUS/VISA, CIRRUS/MASTERCARD, DISCOVER/NOVUS, AMERICAN EXPRESS, STAR and EXCHANGE.

All accounts are insured up to \$100,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Telephone numbers are:

Local number (928) 726-4363
Toll-free customer service
. 1-888-920-BANK (2265)
Toll-free Telebank
. 1-888-929-BANK (2265)

Web site address:

. www.afbank.com
E-mail: info@afbank.com

Navy Federal Credit Union

Navy Federal Credit Union is located aboard MCAS Yuma on the corner of Martini and Hart Streets across from the Marine Corps Exchange. Navy Federal has another office located in town on 16th Street and Arizona Avenue. Hours of operation for the on-base office are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The credit union is a full service financial institution, serving members within their field of membership, which includes all active and retired Navy and Marine personnel, their family members and contractor and civilian personnel working aboard the Base.

Services include: Free checking, Money Market accounts, Certificates of Deposit, Savings accounts, Kids accounts, IRAs, Direct Deposit, ATM service, Cucard and debit cards, Online access, Credit Cards (Visa and Mastercard), Personal loans, Mortgage and equity loans, Auto Loans, Student loans.

For more information, call our toll free number at 1-866-605-1267 or visit us on line at www.navyfcu.org.





Marine Corps Community Services

MCAS Yuma's Marine Corps Community Services has five divisions: Marine Corps Family Team Building, Marine and Family Services, Semper Fit, Business Operations and General Support. Together they offer Marines, sailors, retirees, and their families quality services and merchandise while supporting the air station's various programs. Its headquarters is located in Building 633, and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays. The MCCS administration number is (928) 269-2422.

MCCS 411 Info on the Go is an information line designed to provide easy access to the latest information for MCCS services. Call (928) 269-1411 for information on current events, hours of operation, locations and much more.

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES



The Info Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Shopping

Marine Corps Main Exchange

Bldg. 693 (928) 269-2256
Fax (928) 269-2432

The Exchange carries men's, women's, children's and infant clothing, shoes, sporting goods, luggage, cosmetics and jewelry. They also have an extraordinary selection of golf equipment to challenge the local courses. Other services include Teleflora, fax and copy service, hunting and fishing licenses, Deferred Payment Plan payment services, gift certificates and much more. Tickets and Tours and Military Clothing are located in the Main Exchange as well. In addition to commercial clothing and uniform items, the Military Clothing department also sells Marine Corps insignia, plaques, towels, stuffed animals, coffee mugs and more.

Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday and Holidays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sporting Goods: (928) 269-5263

Customer Service: (928) 269-2747

Western Union services are available at the Customer Service counter in the Main Exchange.

Tickets & Tours

Bldg. 693 (928) 269-2278

Tickets & Tours is located in the Main Exchange and has tickets to exciting places like Disneyland, Sea World, Universal Studios, the San Diego Zoo, Knott's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain, and more. They also have hotel vouchers available for discounts on lodging near some of the most popular attractions.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday and Holidays 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Seven-Day Store

Bldg. 692 (928) 269-3567

The Seven Day Store provides convenience foods and beverages, health and comfort items, books and magazines, a card shop, hardware, telephone calling cards, fresh flowers, toys, and a complete housewares and furnishings department, electronics and multimedia department, soda and coffee beverage bar, film processing, and gifts.

Hours of operation are: Monday through Saturday 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday and Holidays 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Cashier's Cage

Bldg. 692 (928) 269-3120

The Cashier's Cage, located within the Seven Day Store, offers many services such as check cashing, money orders, travelers checks and postage stamps.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed weekends and holidays.

Consolidated Club

Sonoran Pueblo

Bldg. 1200 (928) 269-2711

The Sonoran Pueblo is a 32,000 square foot, state-of-the-art complex that provides private club areas for officers, staff noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel as well as dining facilities for all ranks. The officer and SNCO lounges have high ceilings with red oak interior and are separated by a patio garden.

The west side of the club features the adventurous, high-tech Infinities Enlisted Entertainment Center. The high energy, X-treme atmosphere and the multiple tier theme areas include a huge four-sided video scoreboard, a video wall and over 30 televisions displaying satellite transmitted programs such as NFL Ticket, movies or music videos. The center features a billiards area, Sony PlayStations, large dance and D.J. area, places for lounging and food service. The outdoor sand volleyball court is lit for nighttime playing. A fully functional rock-climbing wall is located in the Center and is available by appointment.

Lunch is served to all hands Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the banquet hall. The club offers a different buffet each day as well as numerous items on their menu. The club can be reserved for Change-of-Command, Wetting Downs, banquets, wedding receptions, birthday parties and more. The banquet area can be configured to serve over 400 guests or divided into sections for smaller groups.





MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES



Afterburner Grill

Bldg. 153(928) 269-5183

The Afterburner Grill is located on the flight line adjacent to Operations and offers a wide range of delicious Mexican specialties. You may dine-in or take-out. Open Monday through Sunday 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Entertainment

Bowling Center

Bldg. 673(928) 269-5585

The Cactus Bowl offers League bowling for bowlers of all skill levels, Cosmic bowling for the young and young at heart, Snack Bar with a great selection of food and beverage items, and a Pro Shop! Hours of operation are Monday through



Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday noon to 7 p.m..

Station Theater

Bldg. 672(928) 269-2358

The Station Theater provides the latest in popular movies seven days a week with a matinee available on Saturday. The best thing about the Station Theater is... the movies are FREE! Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday 7 p.m., Friday 6 and 9 p.m., Saturday 4 and 7 p.m.

The Video Corner

Bldg. 692(928) 269-5300

The Video Corner provides a current selection of new releases, newer catalog

selections and the older classics for rent at competitive prices. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday noon to 9 p.m. and Holidays noon to 6 p.m.

Services

Auto Skills Center

Bldg. 564(928) 269-2395

The Auto Service Center contains 12 service stalls with seven hydraulic lifts, one engine rebuilding room and a welding room that can accommodate vehicles for their repair and maintenance needs. You have the choice to work on your own vehicle or have our highly trained mechanics do the work for you. There are a wide variety of automotive and recreational vehicle parts inside the Hobby Shop. Batteries, tires, NAPA auto parts, and accessories are a few of the selections. You can also ask the service manager to order parts that are not found on the shelves. Welding equipment includes a mig, a tig, a stick and a torch. Hand tools are available at each work stall and pneumatic tools are also available.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed holidays.

RV storage reservations can also be made at the Auto Hobby Shop.

Car Wash

(928) 269-2395

The coin operated Car Wash is located next to the Auto Hobby Shop. It contains





three car stalls and one RV stall. It is also equipped with four coin-operated vacuum stations for service. The Car Wash has a change machine on-site for convenience.

It is available 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

Laundromat

Bldg. 964

Open 24 hours a day.

Dry Cleaners

Bldg. 964(928) 269-2356

Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tailoring

Bldg. 964(928) 269-2884

Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All-Hands Barber Shop

Bldg. 692(928) 269-2115

Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AutoPride Service Station

Bldg. 570(928) 269-2110

AutoPride Service Station is one of the finest in the Yuma area and provides a wide variety of automotive batteries, tires, NAPA auto parts, and accessories. AutoPride is equipped with four spacious islands, each with six pumps that provide credit card service. The AutoPride has cold and frozen snacks, a soda/coffee fountain as well as other convenience foods. U-Haul service is also available. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday and Holidays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Restaurants

Burger King

Bldg. 691(928) 341-0490

Open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Godfather's Pizza

Bldg. 691(928) 341-0150

Located next to Burger King, you can order a delicious pizza, calzone, salad or sandwich such as meatball, pizza, ham or turkey. Open Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Subway

Bldg. 692(928) 269-3466

A worldwide restaurant serving lunch and dinner, featuring the best of Deli sandwiches on fresh baked rolls. Other

menu items include deli-style chips and deli salads, pizzas, desserts, and fountain and bottled drinks.

Open Monday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., holidays 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation

Lake Martinez Reservations

.....(928) 269-2262

Lake Martinez is a recreation area located on the Colorado River about 35 miles north of MCAS off of Highway 95. Activities offered include fishing, boat rentals and swimming. Fishing licenses are also available at the lake. Accommodations include (2) 6-person and (2) 8-person cabins, (8) 4-person park models, (3) primitive campsites and (17) recreational vehicle sites. Reservations are taken by Dos Rios Inn and can be made up to one month in advance.





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Arizona Adventures

Bldg. 562(928) 269-2848

Arizona Adventures is part of the MCCS Semper Fit program and carries sporting equipment such as golf clubs, footballs, baseballs, tennis racquets, soccer balls, and volleyballs. We also carry camping gear such as coolers, tents, sleeping bags, lanterns, grills and more.

Open weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Marine and Family Services Division

Marine and Family Services is one of 19 centers established throughout the Marine Corps to provide personal help and support to the entire Marine Corps community. The division serves single Marines, married Marines, family members, reservists, Department of Defense employees, and retirees, in establishing, maintaining or re-establishing a high quality of life, while coping with the unique circumstances surrounding military service. To make this attractive, mobile life possible, a great amount of planning and preparation is necessary. You don't have to be "in trouble" to benefit from our services and programs. We encourage you to take advantage of the many educational workshops and classes offered on a continuous basis.

Located at Bldg 598, phone (928) 269-5615. All Marine and Family Services Programs, except for Child and Youth Programs and the Library, are officially open for business between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Closed federal holidays.

Personal Support Branch

The Personal Support Branch consists of the Relocation Assistance Program, Personal Finance, Exceptional Family Member Program, and Information and Referral Program.

Relocation Assistance Program

The Relocation Assistance Program provides relocation services for inbound/outbound personnel and counseling on benefits, entitlements, and special needs. Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service, an automated information system, provides a wide range of information on all major military installations worldwide (e.g. housing, schools, base services, local community, etc). A library of Welcome Aboard packages and video tapes are available from other Marine Corps installations to supplement the SITES information. For more information, visit Building 598 or call (928) 269-2425.

Personal Finance Support

The Personal Financial Section provides financial management services including budget development, financial planning, and debt management, as well as monthly workshops on topics covering car buying, home buying, savings and investments, and basic budgeting. Also provided is information on obtaining credit reports, using credit and establishing a good credit history, advantages and disadvantages of rent-to-own, and checking and savings accounts. For more information, visit Building 598 or contact (928) 269-2425.

The Exceptional Family Member Program

The Exceptional Family Member Program is an enrollment program assisting Marines with a family member that has a physical, emotional, developmental, or learning disability, requiring specialized services. The goal is to ensure the needs of the exceptional family member are taken into consideration during the reassignment process. For more information, visit Building 598 or call (928) 269-5233.

Information & Referral Program

The Information and Referral Program links military members with base resources and community services. The I&R specialist maintains a comprehensive database of personal and family support services within the civilian and military communities and can provide detailed information on service providers. The program focuses on identification of problems and needs of individuals and families, providing assistance and support for personal issues and needs. The program also provides assistance with citizenship and immigration needs, form completion, filing procedures and process requirements. For more information, visit Building 598 or call (928) 269-3700.

Counseling Branch

The Counseling Support Branch consists of a Family Advocacy Program, Personal Counseling, Substance Abuse Counseling Center, Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator, New Parent





Support Program, and Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Program.

Family Advocacy Program

The Family Advocacy Program is staffed by certified professional counselors to help the military community with personal or family issues. Marriage counseling, crisis intervention and short-term assistance with personal issues are just some of the services available. Classes in stress and anger management, interpersonal communications, problem solving and effective parenting are also available. This division is dedicated to the intervention, prevention, reporting, and treatment of domestic abuse. They provide victim advocacy and support. For more information, visit Building 645 or call (928) 269-2561.

The Substance Abuse Counseling Center

The Substance Abuse Counseling Center is staffed by certified Marine Corps Substance Abuse Counselors and offers evaluations, assessments, out patient treatment, group/individual therapy, and aftercare. For more information, visit Building 645 or call (928) 269-3669.

The Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator

The Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator provides the base with education and awareness on the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs for MCAS and the local community. For more information, visit Building 645 or call (928) 269-2791. The DEFY Program, which comes under the



DDRP, teaches young people how to avoid drug use and offers summer camp and year round activities.

The New Parent Support Program

The New Parent Support Program provides supportive services to military members who are expecting or have children under 7-years-old. Pre-natal classes, parent support, and education groups, as well as a home visitor program, support the challenges and demands of military family life. For more information visit Building 645, or call (928) 269-2308.

Education Services

Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Center is one of the relatively new departments within

Marine and Family Services. The Lifelong Learning department consists of the Voluntary Education Programs, Station Library, Career Resource Management Center, Transition Assistance, Family Member Employment and Retired Activities.

Voluntary Education Program

The Voluntary Education Program offers a wide range of educational opportunities to the military, military spouses, and MCAS Defense Department civilian employees in the Yuma area. The education center offers counseling for Marines applying for commissioning programs, as well as those seeking information on how to improve their GT score. It also offers a range of military testing. Marine Corps education programs are: Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Programs, Military Academic Skills Program (MASP), United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP), Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART) and Tuition Assistance (TA) Program.

Military tests given are: Armed Forces Classification Test, Defense Language Aptitude Battery, Electronic Data Processing, Defense Language Proficiency Test for Spanish, German, and other languages, General Classification Test, High School Equivalency (GED), College Level Examination, and over thirty (30) Certification Examinations for professional certification. The education center proctors exams for college courses for Active Duty and their spouses. For Active Duty





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only, these include: Scholastic Aptitude Test, American College Test, and The College Level Examination Program. The office authorizes tuition assistance and maintains information on various colleges and universities. For more information visit Building 850 or call (928) 269-3248/3589.

Arizona Western College

Arizona Western College, a comprehensive community college, is celebrating its 40th year of operation and has awarded over 4 million credit hours since their doors opened in 1963. Over 8,000 students a year enroll in courses at AWC and take advantage of this educational opportunity. Because of AWC's partnership with Northern Arizona University - Yuma, the community college not only offers associate's degrees, but also provides a seamless link to bachelors and master's degrees.

For personnel who are pursuing a degree program, the college offers a wide variety of possibilities. Students are able to graduate with an associate degree for transfer, or an occupational associate degree. There are also various occupational certificates available. Some of the degree programs include: Administration of Justice, Advanced Water Treatment, Nursing, Broadcasting, Child Development, Fire Science, Emergency Medical Services, Paramedic, Plant Science, and many more. The college's Web site, www.azwestern.edu, provides additional information on specific degree programs.

The college also offers a variety of enrichment courses. Base personnel and family members have the opportunity to take advantage of modest in-state tuition rates and enroll in courses that enhance their job skills and improve the quality of their lives. Some of the enrichment courses available include astronomy, painting, ceramics, photography, menu planning, wine tasting, cake decorating, automotive, decorative welding, weight training, aerobics, and so much more.

AWC offers daytime courses and evening courses in order to make class time more convenient for working students. There are multiple educational sites throughout Yuma and La Paz counties in order to bring the campus closer to home.

AWC has an active Veterans Affairs Office on its main campus, and there are financial aid resources available to students.

The campus provides a resource of culture and community. For more information regarding degree programs, registration, courses offered, or campus events, please contact Arizona Western College, P.O. Box 929, Yuma, AZ 85366, phone (928) 317-6000. More information is also available on the Web at www.azwestern.edu.

Southern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University offers a bachelor's of science degree in aviation management. Students can begin at any-time because the major classes are not consecutively arranged and meet on alternating weekends throughout the year. The instructors who teach these courses are brought in from the university campus and from throughout the United States.

The SIU program is SOC certified and approved for tuition assistance and Veterans Affairs benefits. For more information, contact the SIU Program Advisor at Building 850 or call (928) 726-7170.

University of Phoenix

You can earn your college degree while maintaining your career and personal life. The University of Phoenix's degree and certificate programs are specifically designed for busy working professionals. Their innovative format provides unparalleled convenience and flexibility in the pursuit of your education.





They offer bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees, as well as professional certificate programs, to help you excel in a number of career fields, including Business, Administration, Accounting, Management, Technology Management, Information Systems, Education, Counseling, Nursing, and Human Services.

Classes are offered at the times and places that work for you. The curriculum is continually updated to provide the skills and knowledge that are in highest demand. Best of all, the concentrated program enables you to complete your degree much sooner than you could at other universities. You can even earn credits for prior work experience through a standardized assessment process.

From registration to graduation and afterwards, the entire University is dedicated to your success. For more information call the University of Phoenix at the base education office at (928) 726-3583. All resident Universities offer some on-base counseling services at Building 850.

Library

Bldg. 633(928) 269-2785

The Station Library is another segment of Lifelong Learning. The library has ten computers - seven with internet access and email, one for word processing and two with internet access located in the KVN room for military dependents. Online databases such as PRO-QUEST are available for access from the library's computers or from a patron's



home computer. The comfortable reading area has newspapers and magazines for up-to-date information. The children's room is geared toward youths 18 months through 1st grade. Story-time is conducted weekly for 3- to 6-year-olds during the school year and a summer reading program is presented for school-age children throughout the summer. Interlibrary loan services are available if the library doesn't have the material you are seeking. A photocopier is also available for patron use. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed holidays.



Transition Assistance

Transition Assistance is provided to military members and their families to ease the transition from military to civilian life with Transition Assistance Program briefs, job search resources, workshops, and a resource library and computer lab for patrons. Separations briefings include veteran's benefits information, reserve opportunities, educational benefits, time management, employment assistance, and more. For CRMC or TAP services information, visit Building 850 or call (928) 269-3159.

Family Member Employment Assistance Program

The Family Member Employment Assistance Program offers information to family members, active duty and Department of Defense civilians in their search for local employment. Assistance is provided regarding local vacancy listings, job referrals, resume critiquing and assessing individuals' current skills and interests. The monthly employment workshop is the first step to locating the right job. For more information, visit Building 850 or call (928) 269-2680.

The Retired Activities Office

The Retired Activities Office is staffed by volunteer military retirees. The RAO director serves as the liaison between the retiree, the installation staff, and other military agencies. The volunteers in the RAO assist retirees on such matters as local regulations, policies on entitlements, benefits, privileges, and planning



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for related Retired Personnel Seminars. This office provides briefings, assists retirees, and publishes a newsletter distributed to the retiree community. For more information, visit Building 850 or call (928) 269-5616.

Child/Youth Programs Branch

The Child/Youth Programs Branch consists of the Child Development Program, Youth Activities and Family Child Care.

Child Development Program

The Child Development Program offers programs and services to assist active duty personnel in balancing the competing demands of family life and accomplishment of the mission, and to support parents in rearing their children. The Child Development Center provides full-time childcare for children six weeks to nine years old. A pre-school program for 3- to 5-year-olds is also offered. School-age and school intercession care for 6- to 9-year-olds is also offered. Child Care Resource and Referral is available through Supplemental Programs to assist you in finding childcare. The CDC hours are Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit Building 1080 or contact (928) 269-2350.

The Youth Center

The Youth Center provides a host of activities offered throughout the year for

6- to 18-year-olds. The center operates a variety of leisure recreation programs, seasonal sports for most age groups including base leagues, summer day camps and school intercession programs. Youth participate in field trips, arts and crafts activities, sports clinics, hikes, teen dances, movies and much more. For more information, visit Building 598 or contact (928) 269-3659. Hours of Operation are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Family Child Care

The Family Child Care Program offers basic support for the family and an extension of the child's experiences. Providers are spouses of active duty military who reside in base housing. Certified Family Child Care providers receive training, undergo medical screening and their homes are inspected by fire, safety and sanitation inspectors. For additional information, visit Building 1085 or call (928) 269-2350.

Marine Corps Family Team Building

Bldg. 1093(928) 269-6502
FAX(928) 269-6514

Preparation, Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP)

Bldg. 112(928) 269-3454

PREP is a research-based approach to teaching couples (premarital or marital) how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness and preserve and enhance commitment and friendship.

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO)

Bldg. 112.....(928) 269-3454/2371

CREDO offers married couples, individuals and teens a variety of weekend retreats. These retreats offer insight and enhancement into relationships with God, marriage, family and personal growth.

Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, Skills (L.I.N.K.S.)

Community Center,
Bldg. 1093(928) 269-6503

L.I.N.K.S. enhances family readiness by providing a positive environment for spouses to learn to manage the demands of Marine Corps life and to work together as a team in balancing

family needs as well as meeting Marine Corps expectations. L.I.N.K.S. is designed to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a military spouse?" and is taught by trained mentors that are seasoned military spouses.

Key Volunteer Network (KVN)

Community Center,
Bldg. 1093(928) 269-6502

The Key Volunteer network is an integral part of the command's official family readiness program and is the primary communication link between the Commanding Officer and unit families for the enhancement of mission readiness. The KVN also provides information and referral on local programs, services and support for unit sponsored activities. Call your unit family readiness officer for information.

Spouses' Leadership Seminar (SLS)

Community Center,
Bldg. 1093(928) 269-6502

The Spouses' Leadership Seminar is provided by Marine Corps Community Services and hosted by Marine Corps Family Team Building. It has been designed to equip spouses with proven techniques and skills that will help them be more effective and successful in leadership roles. The seminar deals with leadership fundamentals such as goal setting, delegating, leading successful meetings and building successful teams. SLS



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attendees are military spouses who have demonstrated consistent commitments to and involvement in family readiness and community building programs.

Semper Fit Division

Fitness Center

Bldg. 545(928) 269-2727

With a recent 4,000 square foot addition, the fitness center features a weight and cardio room including treadmills, life cycles and stair masters with six large screens and headsets for cardio theater viewing! Extensive Cybex free-weight equipment covers much of the floor. The center also includes two regulation-size racquetball courts, an indoor basketball/volleyball court, and renovated locker rooms. The center is open Monday through Friday 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, and holidays 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cardio Corner

Bldg. 545(928) 269-6769

Cardio Corner offers six different fitness classes provided by certified instructors. Located within the Fitness Center, Cardio Corner is free to active duty, dependents, retirees, and MCCS employees.

Fitness Coordinator

Bldg. 545(928) 269-6769

The Fitness Coordinator offers fitness assessments, body composition, fitness programs, cardio classes and more. Located within the Fitness Center.



Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ramada Recreational Field

The Ramada Recreational Field is available for parties, games and more, including a softball field, volleyball court, horseshoe pits and a picnic area. For reservations call (928) 269-2278.

In-Line Skating Rink

Another feature for MCAS, and the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps is the in-line skating rink. The 169 x 72

foot skating rink can be used for either in-line hockey games or individual pleasure. Located next to the Ramada Recreational Field between DeBruhl and Loesch St., it's open for play seven days a week, with some weekday slots used for reservations. To make reservations, call the Fitness Center at (928) 269-2727. Helmets are required and are available at Arizona Adventures.

Swimming Pools

.....(928) 269-3474/2926

There are two swimming pools on station. Tidal Wave is currently closed until further notice located near the Child Development Center and Oasis, located near Burger King. The pools are open May 1 through October 31. To make reservations for parties, call (928) 269-2278.

Tennis Courts

For the tennis players there are several courts available to practice your backhand. The courts feature synthetic, hard surfaces and have windscreen protection plus lights for night games. It is located behind the Child Development Center.

16th Street Community Center

.....(928) 782-6640

Co-located with the 16th Street housing 15 minutes away from MCAS Yuma, it is a community center used for a variety of activities, such as fitness and private parties.

Base Community Center

.....(928) 269-6741

Located behind Dos Rios Inn and available for rental for a variety of activities. For more information or reservations for Community Centers please call Dos Rios Inn (928) 269-2262.

Single Marine Program

Bldg. 633

The Single Marine Program is here to provide quality programs that are exciting, informative, and promote healthy life-styles for all single Marines. The SMP council meets to discuss quality of life issues on base and in the barracks, as well as coordinate trips and events that Marines would like to attend. All Marines are encouraged to attend the meetings and express their concerns or suggestions. The Single Marine Program Coordinator can be reached at (928) 269-6556.





MCAS – *Past and Present*

The year was 1928. The place - 640 acres covered with cactus, brush and desert wildlife, near Yuma. It was that year that Col. Benjamin F. Fly persuaded the federal government to lease the land from Yuma County. Three weeks later, a 20-year lease with an option for an additional 20 years at \$1 per year, was signed. Fly Field became a reality.

Aviation was in its infancy, and Fly Field became the center of attention in Yuma. During the summer of 1928, it was used as a stopover point for 25 planes in a New York to Los Angeles air race. It was used sporadically by private aircraft until 1941 when the U.S. government, through the Civil



Aeronautics Administration, authorized an expenditure for permanent runways.

When the United States entered World War II, an air base was erected with the astounding speed which characterized the war effort. By early 1943, Yuma Army Air Base began graduating classes of pilots. The base became one of the busiest flying schools in the nation, training pilots of AT-6 single engine trainers, T-17 multi-engine trainers and B-17 Flying Fortresses.

At the end of the war, all flight activity here ceased and the area was partially reclaimed by the desert. During the period of inactivity, it was controlled successively by the War Assets Administration, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Reclamation, which used it as a headquarters for its irrigation projects.

On July 7, 1951, the Air Force reactivated the base, and the 4750th Air Base Squadron resumed training as part of the Western Air Defense Forces. The airfield was named Yuma Air Base, but was renamed Vincent Air Force Base in 1956 in memory of Brig. Gen. Clinton D. Vincent, a pioneer of bombing techniques, who died in 1955.

From Air Force Base to Marine Corps Air Station

The facility was signed over to the Navy Jan. 1, 1959, and nine days later, Col. L.K. Davis became the first commanding officer of the newly designated Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station. On July 20, 1962, the designation was changed to Marine Corps Air Station.

From 1969 until 1987, the air station served primarily as a training base for pilots assigned to Marine Corps Crew Readiness Training Group-10 flying the F-4 Phantom, A-4 Skyhawk and AV-8A Harrier.

Since then, the main runway has been extended to 13,300 feet (enough concrete for 37 miles of two-lane highway) and the Tactical Aircrew Combat Training System, has been added. The system is designed to provide realistic air-to-air combat training with electronically simulated weapons firing for all Navy and Marine squadrons.

In 1987, Marine Aircraft Group-13, with Marine Attack Squadrons 211, 214, 311 and 513 replaced MCCRTG-10 as the major tenant command aboard the station. The move also brought Marine Wing Support Squadron-371 to Yuma, joining



Marine Air Control Squadron-7 and 2nd Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion.

Throughout the fall of 1990, virtually every Marine Corps fixed wing squadron that participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm underwent pre-deployment training on Yuma's ranges.

On Sept. 1, 1994, subsequent to the deactivation of 2d LAAM Bn., 1st LAAM Bn. was reactivated, consisting of H&S Battery and three firing batteries. 1st LAAM Bn. then merged with MACS-7 on July 11, 1997 resulting in the redesignation of MACS-7 as MACS-7 (Reinforced). On June 26, 1998, the squadron reorganized and was redesignated MACS-1 (Rein).

Mission

Today, MCAS Yuma is the busiest air station in the Marine Corps and the third busiest in the Naval service. It is also the second largest contributor to the economy of Yuma County.

Its primary mission is to support aerial weapons training for the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Marine Forces and Navy, and to serve as a base of operations for Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 and Third MAW units, to include Marine Aircraft Group-13.

As the scheduling authority for the Bob Stump Training Range Complex,





MCAS – PAST AND PRESENT



MCAS Yuma provides fleet squadrons access to 10,000 square miles of special-use air space designated for military aviation training and almost 2,000 square miles of underlying land reserved as aerial bombing and gunnery ranges. Collectively, this complex is the largest tactical aviation training range utilized by the Marine Corps.



Each year, approximately 50 aviation units deploy here to train on Yuma's 2.8 million-acre range complex. These deployments, ranging from a few days to weeks, bring about 9,000 personnel and 500 aircraft to Yuma annually.

MCAS Yuma is also the only joint-use air station in the Marine Corps. Through an agreement between the Marine Corps and Yuma County, MCAS provides all air traffic control, crash crew services, security, and maintains the runways and taxiways for both MCAS and Yuma International Airport.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, located in Building 722, is responsible for initiating, executing and monitoring administration support, legal administration, training management, barracks management, career planning services, and substance abuse screening to Marine and Navy personnel assigned to H&HS at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

Approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. They work in all staff sections, the Communications Center, Motor Transport, Facilities Maintenance, Billeting, the Enlisted Dining Facility, Search and Rescue, Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Airfield Operations, Fleet Services and Range Management.

The squadron administrative office may be contacted by calling (928) 269-2840.



Marine Aircraft Group - 13

Marine Aircraft Group-13, part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif., is comprised of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13, Unmanned Marine Aerial Vehicle Squadron-1, and Marine Attack Squadrons 211, 214, 311 and 513. VMAs 211, 214, 311 and 513 provide close-air support, conduct armed reconnaissance, and assume limited air-defense roles. VMU-1 provides unmanned aerial vehicle support and reconnaissance.

MAG-13 was activated at San Diego March 1, 1942, and participated in the Marshall Islands campaign during World War II. It was deactivated at the close of the war.

Reformed in March 1951, MAG-13 moved to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in early 1953 with two fighter squadrons and Marine Air Control Squadron-2. Aviation units based at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., were rotated to Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, every six months for training until April 1954.

On May 1, 1956, the 1st Marine Brigade assumed its title in lieu of the 1st Provisional Marine Air Ground Task Force designation, and MAG-13 provided the air support for this unique organization. It gained the distinction of being the only composite Marine Aircraft Group, comprised of fighter, attack and helicopter squadrons, supporting the ground arm of the brigade.

In June of 1965, MAG-13 became a unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing of Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, where it operated until October of 1966. With elements deployed to Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, it supported the III Marine Amphibious Force and other forces in I Corps and II Corps tactical zones, Laos, North Vietnam and Cambodia.

MAG-13 returned to El Toro, in October 1970 and moved to Yuma October 1, 1987.

MAG-13 deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2003 aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard.



With squadrons deployed aboard 4 different amphibious vessels and one land based, MAG-13 flew round-the-clock, providing Close Air Support to ground units as they pressed toward Baghdad. With more than 75 aircraft in theater, MAG-13 delivered a significant amount of munitions on enemy targets without losing a single aircraft or Marine to enemy fire. MAG-13 saw its last unit return from Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2003.

Headquartered in Building 505, the adjutant's office can be reached at (928) 269-2124.



Marine Attack Squadron - 211

Marine Attack Squadron-211 is one of four AV-8B Harrier squadrons assigned to Marine Aircraft Group-13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Its mission is to provide close-air support, conduct armed reconnaissance and limited air-defense to Marine expeditionary forces.

VMA-211 began as Fighter Squadron 4M in 1937, flying the Grumman F-3F biplane fighter aircraft at Naval Air Station San Diego, Calif. The squadron moved to Ewa, Hawaii, in January 1941, and was redesignated VMF-211 while transitioning to Grumman F4F-3 Wildcats.

In November 1941, VMF-211 flew 12 Wildcats aboard the USS Enterprise for movement to Wake Island, the scene of the squadron's heroic battle. On Dec. 8, the Japanese attacked, destroying seven of the 12 aircraft on the ground.

In the next two weeks, the remaining five planes repelled numerous attacks and inflicted great losses on the enemy. During the course of the defense, the Marine ground forces and VMF-211 caused the loss of at least four enemy warships - the first major Japanese naval vessels sunk during the Pacific war. At least 21 enemy aircraft were shot down by flak and VMF-211.

The first Marine airman to be awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II was VMF-211's Capt. Henry "Hammering Hank" Elrod. Wake Island was finally overrun on Dec. 25 by a numerically superior enemy.



The squadron's rear echelon was subsequently transferred to Palmyra Atoll in the South Pacific and adopted the name "Avengers" in memory of those squadron members who were killed or captured on Wake Island.

Flying the F-4U Corsair for the remainder of the war, VMF-211 participated in the Treasury-Bougainville, Bismark, Northern Solomon, Leyte and Southern Philippine campaigns. After World War II, VMF-211 participated in the occupation of China and returned to Edenton, N.C., in 1949. While operating aboard the USS Coral Sea in 1952, the squadron was redesignated VMA-211.

In 1957, the squadron received its first A-4 Skyhawks and subsequently moved to El Toro, Calif., in 1958. With escalation of the Vietnam conflict, VMA-211 moved to Japan in 1965 and commenced the first of four deployments to the Republic of Vietnam. In August 1976, the squadron returned to El Toro where it replaced its old A-4Es with the latest Skyhawk model, the A-4M.

In September 1987, the squadron celebrated an aviation milestone when it passed 30 years of flying the McDonnell Douglas A-4 Skyhawk.

After successfully completing the last overseas deployment with the A-4M Skyhawk in 1989, VMA-211 began transferring these aircraft to the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in preparation for transition to the AV-8B Night Attack aircraft.

In June of 1990, the squadron began flying the Night Attack model. And in May 1992, a detachment from VMA-211 embarked on the first AV-8B Night Attack deployment overseas. During the period of 1992-1998, VMA-211 participated in numerous squadron deployments to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Iwakuni and Okinawa Japan, and fully supported six plane detachments as part of a composite Air Combat Element squadron for the 31st, 11th, and 13th Marine Expeditionary Units. During this time, the Avengers were awarded Marine Corps Aviation Association





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“Attack Squadron of the Year” three times, in 1995, 1996, and 1998.

In September 2000, the squadron began introduction of the latest Harrier variant, the AV-8B II+ radar aircraft. The squadron soon fielded a compliment of both Radar and Night Attack Harriers.

Answering the call that followed the September 11 terror attacks, the squadron deployed to the Arabian Sea aboard the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard. The Avengers lived up to their name in Operation Enduring Freedom, flying combat missions against targets in Afghanistan from January to March 2002.

After a short break, the following January found the Avengers once again in familiar territory, aboard the Bonhomme Richard. This time the squadron was headed for the Persian Gulf, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In one month of combat flying, the squadron flew over 360 sorties and 640 hours of flight time. The squadron returned to Yuma in May 2003 and today stands ready to provide offensive air support to Marines around the world, “...in every clime and place.”



Marine Attack Squadron - 214

On July 1, 1942, the VMF-214 “Swash-bucklers” were commissioned at Ewa, Oahu, in the territory of Hawaii with Captain George E. Britt as the Commanding Officer. With a nucleus of three officers and twenty-three enlisted men, all veterans of the Battle of Midway under VMF-221, training operations were initiated. Organization to full strength was gradual and not completed until January 1943. In February of that same year the squadron deployed to Espiritu Santos, New Hebrides in the south Pacific. The squadron was assigned to daily patrol duty over places such as: Tulagi, the Russell islands, and Guadalcanal, and escort duty for bomber strikes on Munda, New Georgia and Kahili, Bougainville. Later that spring, the squadron deployed in the Russells, Guadalcanal and was finally transferred to Efate, New Hebrides for transitioning to the F4U Corsair in May. After operations during the



summer in Munda, and in the Russells, the squadron was transferred to Australia for rest and relaxation after the death of its then current Commanding Officer, Major Bill Pace in August 1943.

In that same month, Major Gregory “Pappy” Boyington (who was later awarded the Medal of Honor) formed a group of twenty-seven young men to form the original “Black Sheep” of VMF-214. The squadron was re-designated as the “Black Sheep” and activated on 7 September 1943. The call sign was chosen by the squadron to commemorate the unusual way in which the Squadron had been formed. The pilots ranged from experienced combat veterans, with several air-to-air victories to their credit, to new replacement pilots from the United States. Major Boyington and Major Stan Bailey were given permission to form these unassigned pilots into a squadron, with the understanding that they would have less than four weeks to have them fully trained and ready for combat. They were very successful. They met the Japanese over their own fields and territories and piled up the smashing record of 203 planes destroyed or damaged. The squadron produced eight aces with 97 confirmed air-to-air kills, sunk several troop transports and supply ships, and destroyed many installations. For their actions, the original Black Sheep members were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action. The Black Sheep ended their second combat tour on 8 January 1944, five days after Major Boyington was shot down and captured by the Japanese. The original Black Sheep were disbanded and the

pilots were placed in the pilot pool in MAG-11. During the 1940s, VMF-214 had many homes in the United States, including: Ewa, Hawaii; Santa Barbara, California; El Centro, California and El Toro, California.

Flying eight F4U-4B Corsairs on 3 August 1950, VMF-214 became the first Marine Squadron to see action in Korea. Flying from the USS Sicily Strait (CVE-116) and the USS Boxer (CV-21), the Black Sheep completed two combat tours in Korea. VMF-214 (along with its sister squadrons) flew over 25,000 sorties from carriers and participated in key battles including: the Inchon landing, defense of the Pusan Perimeter, and the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir. In all battles, they provided nearly continual air cover, interdicting supply and communication lines, and inflicting heavy damage on numerous ground emplacements and enemy armor.

The period between Korea and Vietnam saw several significant changes for the Black Sheep. VMF was changed to VMA on July 9, 1957, designating the Squadron as an “attack” vice “fighter”, since the Black Sheep’s primary function had been in a ground attack role since the second combat tour in World War II. The Black Sheep transitioned to the FJ-4 Fury, and became one of the first squadrons to deploy overseas, by flying their aircraft from Hawaii to join the USS Hancock in the western Pacific. On Jan. 23, 1962, the Black Sheep transitioned from the FJ-4B Fury to the A4B Skyhawk. This began a 27 year association between the Black Sheep and follow-on versions of the Skyhawk.



On June 21, 1965, the first Black Sheep Skyhawks flew into Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. The Black Sheep rotated out of Vietnam in February 1966 to pick up new pilots and personnel. In April 1966, the Black Sheep deployed back to Chu Lai, where combat missions were again flown in support of the Republic of Vietnam. The Black Sheep Squadron flew 14,000 hours in combat, 13,000 sorties, and dropped more than 10,000 tons of ordnance. For their service VMA-214 was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation with Bronze Star.

VMA-214 returned from Vietnam in April 1967 and relocated from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to El Toro, California. Upon arrival they were reassigned to Marine Aircraft Group 33, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force Pacific. There the unit became recognized as an operational training squadron for attack pilots, many of who were replacement pilots bound for Vietnam. During December of 1970, the Black Sheep were reassigned to Marine Aircraft Group 13. Through the late 1970's, and into the 1980's, the squadron participated in the Unit Deployment Program, rotating between Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 13. In October 1982, the Black Sheep were awarded the Lawson H.M. Sanderson Award for Attack Squadron of the Year. In September 1987, the Black Sheep squadron once again relocated, this time to MCAS Yuma, Arizona. On Oct. 17, 1987, the Black Sheep again made history by becoming the first squadron to win the prestigious Sanderson award for a second time.

In June 1989, the Black Sheep introduced single-seat fixed wing "Night Attack" aircraft to the Marine Corps with the first operational squadron of AV-8B Night Attack Harrier II's. Through out the 1990's, VMA-214 continued to support multiple exercises and Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments, including: OPERATION CONTINUE HOPE and OPERATION QUICK DRAW in Somalia, OPERATION DISTANT RUNNER in Burundi, and OPERATION DESERT FOX in the North Arabian Gulf.

The turn of the century presented some of the most challenging yet rewarding years in Black Sheep history. Immediately following an extended fleet wide grounding of all Harrier Activities, the Black Sheep split the Squadron and deployed simultaneously in support of two separate MEU(SOC)s. The Squadron(-) deployed to Iwakuni, Japan, while Detachment Bravo sailed in support of the 13th MEU

aboard USS Tarawa (LHA-1). The 13th MEU Black Sheep participated in humanitarian operations in East Timor, Indonesia, and in OPERATION DETERMINED RESPONSE off the coast of Yemen, in support of the USS Cole's recovery.

In February 2003 the Black Sheep, again answered the Nation's call to arms. In response to increased tension in the Middle East, the squadron deployed its sixteen airplanes and over 250 personnel to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait. As the only land based Harrier squadron, the Black Sheep were overhead as Marines of I Marine Expeditionary Force pushed North into Iraq. From the initial strikes of 19 March (the storming of Baghdad) and through the rebuilding of Iraq during the summer of 2003, VMA-214 Harriers were above providing close air support, conducting aerial interdiction, and armed reconnaissance. The Black Sheep flew 1547 combat sorties for 2163 hours, and dropped 236,000 pounds of ordnance in support of OPERATIONS SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM.

In May 2004, VMA-214 conducted simultaneous deployments to the Middle East in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II. As the Black Sheep(-) became the first Harriers to be land-based in Iraq (along with the VMA-542 Tigers). The 11th MEU detachment embarked upon the USS Belleau Wood for transit to Iraq. With the aid of the LITENING II pod, the Black Sheep provided tactical air reconnaissance, convoy escort, and close air support for multiple Marine, Army, and Air Force ground units in places such as: Fallujah, Hit, Baghdad, Najaf, Ramadi, Husaybah, and other numerous small towns. As VMA-214(-) was preparing to re-deploy to the United





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States, the VMA-214 boat detachment was establishing itself at Al Asad, Iraq in support of the 11th MEU, where they remain today. During their short stay, VMA-214(-) amassed 1121 hours during 705 sorties.

To this day, the Black Sheep of VMA-214 (both at home and in Iraq) are continuing in their tradition of true and faithful service to the Nation and to the Corps. They have continued to produce and maintain a highly skilled and tactically proficient cadre of pilots and maintainers. From the time of "Pappy" Boyington to the present day, the Black Sheep have demonstrated a standard of excellence and esprit de corps that has marked them as one of the finest military units of our Country and Corps.



Marine Attack Squadron - 311

Marine Attack Squadron-311 was initially commissioned a fighter squadron on Dec. 1, 1942, at Cherry Point, N.C., flying the SNJ Texan trainers. In April 1943, they received the new Vought F4U-1 Corsair and entered the Pacific Theater where they served with distinction until the end of World War II.

On Oct. 6, 1943, the squadron catapulted from the deck of the USS Nassau to Samoa Naval Air Station in one of the earliest catapult operations of the F4U. Two days later, VMF-311 flew to Wallis Island and remained there until January 1944. During America's "Island Hopping" campaign across the Pacific, the squadron's mission was to isolate Japanese forces on the bypassed islands, deny their escape and prevent their use of airstrips.

The squadron continued strafing and bombing missions until moving to Okinawa in March 1945, and was the first Marine squadron to use fighter aircraft for dive bombing missions. The squadron, now flying the F4U-1C (a modification which included four 20mm cannons and pylons for 5-inch rockets), downed its first aircraft on April 7, 1945. Combat air patrols were the predominant mission until the war ended.

After the war, VMF-311 moved to Yokosuka, Japan, as part of the occupational forces. The nickname "Hell's Belles" was adopted by the squadron during World War II but was seldom used.

In April 1948, '311 received the first jet aircraft to be introduced to Marine aviation - the Shooting Star - followed by the F9F2 Panther in September.

It was during this time the squadron acquired the letters "WL" as its tail designator, leading to the nickname Willy Lovers. The evidence suggests that it was this nickname which inspired the heart on the squadron insignia.

With the outbreak of war in Korea, the squadron moved to Pusan, South Korea, where it flew the first Marine jet combat mission on Dec. 10, 1950, providing close air support for 8th Army units near the Chosin Reservoir. Similar missions were flown despite inclement weather, maintenance problems, and enemy anti-aircraft fire. In two and a half years, the squadron amassed 18,851 combat sorties. Even after the armistice was signed, VMF-311 continued to fly training missions to maintain readiness.

It was early in 1957 that VMF-311 began to be referred to as the "Tomcats." This period also brought the new Grumman F9F-8 Cougar, thus upgrading the





squadron's capabilities. On June 1, 1957, the unit was redesignated Marine Attack Squadron-311. This didn't create any organizational problems as the emphasis was simply placed on a mission the squadron had so aptly performed during World War II and Korea.

In the summer of 1958, VMA-311 began receiving the Douglas A4D2 Skyhawks, later redesignated the A-4B. The Tomcats began receiving the new A-4Es in mid-1963 and in March 1965 deployed to Japan with 20 A-4Es. During April 1965, VMA-311 was alerted to prepare to deploy to the Republic of Vietnam.

In Vietnam the tempo of operations was intense. Operating from the air base at Chu Lai, the squadron flew 240 sorties flown from May 5-8, 1968, and by September the Tomcats had logged 25,000 combat sorties and were the undisputed pacesetter in what was believed to be a record number of combat sorties for any fixed wing squadron in a single conflict of war.

The squadron relocated to Da Nang air base in the summer of 1970. For VMA-311 the war ended on Jan. 29, 1973, with a total of 54,625 combat sorties flown and 105,000 tons of ordnance dropped in support of troops throughout Southeast Asia.

The squadron flew the A-4 aircraft until its return from Iwakuni, Japan, in June of 1988, and was moved to MCAS Yuma along with other MAG-13 squadrons. Prior to its transition into the new AV-8B aircraft, VMA-311 was the proud recipient of the coveted Lawson H.M. Sanderson Award, qualifying the squadron for the 1988 Marine Attack Squadron of the Year by the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

On Aug. 11, 1990, the Tomcats were ordered to Saudi Arabia in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force units deployed for Operation Desert Shield. Operating from the King Abdul Aziz naval air base, VMA-311 was the forward-most fixed wing aircraft unit in theater.

On Jan. 17, the Tomcats became the first Marine squadron to employ the AV-8B Harrier in combat, striking Iraqi positions in southern Kuwait in preparation for the coalition ground offensive. During the Persian Gulf War, the squadron flew 1,017 combat sorties and dropped 8,000 tons of ordnance on enemy targets.

Returning to Yuma in April 1991, the squadron was awarded the MCAA's Attack Squadron of the Year for 1991. On April 9, 1992, the Tomcats received their first Night Attack AV-8B and was formally assigned as a night attack squadron.

Continuing the Tomcats' tradition of firsts, on Nov. 3, 2001, VMA-311 Harriers attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked aboard the USS Peleliu became the first Harriers to fly combat missions in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

In true Tomcat fashion, the Marines of VMA-311 again answered the their nation's call as they deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in January 2003. Almost 59 years to the day after VMF-311's first combat sortie in World War II, the Tomcats flew their first combat sortie of Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 21, 2003. During the war they dropped 77 tons of precision ordnance, destroying or neutralizing 132 Iraqi targets.



Marine Attack Squadron - 513

Marine Attack Squadron-513 was first commissioned as VMF-513 on Feb. 15, 1944 at Marine Corps Auxiliary Field

Oak Grove, N.C., flying the Grumman F6F "Hellcat." The squadron was transferred to Marine Corps Auxiliary Field Walnut Range, Ark., in September 1944 and in December, the squadron moved to Mojave, Calif., where it was designated VMF(CVS)-513.

On June 15, 1945, VMF(CVS)-513 departed San Diego aboard the USS Vella Gulf and participated in carrier operations in the Pacific; making stops in Ewa, Enewetak, Saipan, and Guam. They also provided close air support for the 3rd Marine Division in the battle for Okinawa, Japan. During the period between WWII and the Korean Conflict, VMF-513 operated from MCAS El Toro, Calif. When it transitioned to the F4U-5N, the squadron was designated VMF(N)-513.

In August 1950, the squadron deployed to Japan under operational control of the U.S. 5th Air Force. During the summer of 1952, VMF(N)-513 received the "Skynight," the squadron's first jet aircraft. In prosecuting the Korean Conflict with the new jet fighter, VMF(N)-513 was credited with 10 kills; making aviation history with the first radar kill of an enemy jet aircraft at night. Following the Korean Conflict and a three-year tour in Japan, the squadron returned to MCAS El Toro.

On July 26, 1958, VMF-513 received the F4D "Skylark" aircraft. On August 1, 1963, the squadron was designated VMFA-513 after transitioning into the F-4B "Phantom II." In November 1964,





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VMFA-513 deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan. During June 1965, the squadron moved to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. At MCAS Cherry Point, the squadron flew the F-4B "Phantom" until June 30, 1970, when it was commissioned as cadre, awaiting delivery of the first Marine AV-8A "Harrier" on April 16, 1971.

With the arrival of the first "Jump Jet," the squadron was designated VMA-513. The squadron saw participation in the Navy's Interim D Sea Control Ship evaluation and the DOD's Sortie Rate Validation Test in 1971 and 1972. Upon reassignment to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, VMA-513 departed for MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, during July 1974 aboard the USS Tripoli. A six-plane detachment subsequently departed in September 1974 for a six-month Mediterranean deployment aboard the USS Guam. During November 1976, VMA-513 was ordered back to the United States and assigned to Marine Combat Crew Readiness Training Group-10 at MCAS Yuma (designated Marine Aircraft Group-13 on Oct. 1, 1987). In departing for the United States, a detachment of six-aircraft remained behind, initiating six-month rotational detachments at MCAS Iwakuni), Japan.

During the 1980's, the Nightmares continued to deploy around the world from the familiar Western Pacific to a six-week Atlantic deployment with the Spanish Navy Harriers aboard the USS

Guam during "Ocean Venture 81." Numerous deployments were also conducted to Nellis AFB, Nev. Cold Lake and Alberta, Canada; Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev.; Twenty-nine Palms, Calif; and several detachments aboard amphibious assault ships USS Tripoli, Peleliu, and Tarawa.

In October 1987, the squadron received the improved AV-8B Harrier II, which it employed in February 1991 in support of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit during Operation Desert Storm; logging 103 combat sorties with no losses. After successfully conducting combat operations from an austere environment in Southwest Asia, the Nightmares returned home with all assets and no loss of life. VMA-513 has long been known for its aviation firsts, which include the first kill of a supersonic drone with a sidewinder missile in 1964 and the first USMC squadron to transition to the AV-8A "Harrier" in 1970.

With the introduction of the "Night Attack Harrier" and more recently the radar-equipped "Harrier II Plus" in 2001, the Nightmares continued to exercise and develop "Fixed Wing" STOVL concepts in support of Marine Expeditionary Forces.

In 2002 the Nightmares were called upon to deploy worldwide in support of operations overseas. First, a detachment of six aircraft deployed in support of the 11th MEU and later in the year the

remainder of the squadron deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. After being deployed for a year, the Nightmares returned home in 2003 to regroup and redeploy. Late 2003 saw the Nightmares deploy in support of the 13th MEU and the first ever Expeditionary Surface Group One.

The "Flying Nightmares" continue to support the Corps today. Not knowing what the future will bring, the squadron will continue their efforts to ensure that when they are needed, they will be ready.



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron - 13

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13 was activated March 1, 1942, at San Diego, as Headquarters and Service Squadron-13. The squadron saw frequent action in the Pacific theater during World War II before being deactivated on Nov. 30, 1945. The squadron was reactivated March 15, 1951, at MCAS El Toro, as Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-13, Marine Aircraft Group-13, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. After several West Pac



deployments and relocations, the squadron was reassigned during April 1966 to the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific. During September 1966, it deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.

The squadron participated in the Vietnam conflict from September 1966 to October 1970. The squadron was then relocated to El Toro, California, and assigned to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing until Oct. 1, 1987, when the squadron moved to MCAS Yuma. On Oct. 5, 1988, the Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron within the Marine Aircraft Group was replaced by the creation of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron.

From Aug. 10, 1990 to Oct. 15, 1991, Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13 responded expeditiously in providing aviation logistics support for subordinate units within Marine Aircraft Group-13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and I Marine Expeditionary Force Aviation Combat Element (ACE) activities during operations "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm." After successful combat operations against enemy forces in operation "Desert Storm," MALS-13 personnel continued to be deployed to the Arabian Gulf region to augment Commander, Marine Forces, Southwest Asia Security Forces and assist in the reconstitution of the Maritime Prepositioning Forces ships.

In October 2002, the "Black Widows" of MALS-13 validated the AV-8B Harrier Remote Expeditionary Support Package (RESP), by successfully deploying the personnel, equipment, and spare parts, to Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, to support Marine Attack Squadron-513 in flying combat sorties as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In January 2003, MALS-13 deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A second RESP from MALS-13 also deployed ashore in Al Jaber, Kuwait, in support of VMA-214 operations ashore. Throughout this deployment, the MALS Marines provided superior intermediate-level avionics, aircraft maintenance, aviation supply, ordnance, and information systems support for MAG-13 squadrons operating both ashore and afloat.

During its distinguished history, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13 has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer, Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with three bronze stars, Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with two bronze stars, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer with one bronze star, WWII Victory Streamer, National Defense Service Streamer with two bronze stars, Vietnam Service streamer with two silver and one bronze star, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer, Vietnam Meritorious Unit



Citation with Civil Actions Streamer, and the Southwest Asia Service Streamer with two bronze stars.



Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron - 1

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One was commissioned June 1, 1978, in order to increase the combat readiness of aviation units. The job of the MAWTS-1 commanding officer is, in part, to coordinate and supervise the development and presentation of formal courses of instruction, academic and flight, with both the regular and reserve components.

A prime example is the semi-annual Weapons and Tactics Instructor course, a comprehensive postgraduate-level course of instruction for highly experienced officers from all aviation communities throughout the Marine Corps and selected Air Force, Army and Navy units.

Officers from infantry and ground supporting arms units also attend the course to ensure appropriate air/ground interface. The WTI course is broken down into three phases: academics, a flight syllabus and a final exercise.





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The academic phase is divided into a week of generic instruction on the threat and contingencies, a week of fixed wing, rotary wing and command, control and communications common instruction, and a final week of specific instruction on each particular warfare specialty.

The flight phase, which begins the third week of the course, consists of one week of specific weapons and tactics employment for each type aircraft or Marine air command control squadron agency, a second week of fixed wing and rotary wing common flight orientations and a third week of integrated flight evolutions encompassing all facets of Marine aviation. The last week of the course is set aside for a final exercise in which WTI students plan, execute and debrief integrated missions in a sophisticated threat environment.

The WTI course is designed to provide one WTI or WTI aircrew per squadron or unit per year. The object is to graduate officers who are fully qualified in their warfare specialty and capable of the planning and execution of integrated missions.

Upon successful completion of the seven-week course, the individual officer is qualified to return to his unit and conduct a professional training program which emphasized integration with other aviation units and supporting arms and the exercising of the Marine Corps command and control system planned to support a ground scheme of maneuver.

MAWTS-1 conducts several other embedded courses during WTI for Intelligence Officers and Enlisted personnel, Aviation Ground Support Officers, Ground Combat Officers, Rotary Wing Crew Chiefs, KC-130 Navigators, Loadmasters, and Flight Engineers. Other formal courses include: the MEU SPMAGTF/ACE training course, and a Commander's course.

A separate Aviation Development Tactics and Evaluation Department was established in June 1983, to provide a nucleus of aviation expertise in all functional areas of Marine Corps aviation. Responsive to HQMC, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and the operational forces, this department has already provided many significant contributions to Marine Corps aviation.

Since its establishment, individuals of superior aeronautical and tactical expertise have staffed MAWTS-1. From Northern Europe to the Caribbean, the Western Pacific and the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia, MAWTS-1 has responded to the needs of the "Fleet." MAWTS-1 maintains close, mutually beneficial liaison with the aviation and tactics schools of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as those of several allied nations. This fertile environment has spawned many innovative and unique tactical developments employed throughout the Naval Service.

Squadron administrative offices may be contacted by calling (928) 269-2060.



Marine Wing Support Squadron - 371

Marine Wing Support Squadron-371 was commissioned on June 2, 1986, to provide essential aviation ground support to fixed-wing components of Marine aviation units. The squadron currently supports Marine Aircraft Group-13 and supplements services provided by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

MWSS-371 provides the equipment, personnel, and expertise necessary to accomplish all functions of aviation ground support, including law enforcement; meteorological support; internal airfield communications; aircraft rescue and firefighting; explosive ordnance disposal; engineer services; runway construction and repair; heavy equipment support; motor transport support; aircraft refueling; messing; medical services; nuclear, biological, and chemical support; and training.

Twice a year, the squadron demonstrates its capabilities by supporting Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 during its Weapons and Tactics Instructor courses. Additionally, MWSS-371 conducts mission-oriented





training and participates in numerous joint exercises and deployments to cultivate a combat-ready mindset. It also supports community service projects to enhance its expertise and maintain perishable skills. The squadron has distinguished itself in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and, more recently, in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, where it established multiple Forward Arming and Refueling Points in Iraq and concurrently supported two major air bases in Kuwait.

MWSS-371 is located in Building 852. The duty officer can be reached at (928) 269-2506.



Marine Air Control Squadron - 1

Marine Air Control Squadron-1 (Reinforced) is a Fleet Marine Force unit subordinate to Marine Air Control Group-38 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Its mission is to provide control for antiaircraft warfare operations and continuous all-weather Air Traffic Control services. Equipped with the AN/TYQ-23 Tactical Air Operations Module, surveillance and precision approach radars, and the Marine Air Traffic Control and Landing System (MATCALS), the squadron provides the Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC)

and Air Traffic Control for the Marine Air Command and Control System. The TAOC controls and coordinates surface-to-air and air-to-air missile intercepts, while digitally interfacing with other air control and air defense agencies of the United States and of other allied nations. The MATCALS is responsible to provide all-weather air traffic control services for airfields the Air Wing operates from.

MACS-1 is currently headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and has remote Detachments at MCAS Miramar and MCB Camp Pendleton. The Squadron was first activated at Cherry Point, N.C., on September 1, 1943, as Air Warning Squadron-1 (AWS-1).

During World War II, AWS-1 saw action in the Marshall Islands and Okinawa. Tasked to provide air control of aircraft, AWS-1 disembarked on the Enebi Islands on February 20, 1944.

On March 1, 1944, the unit assumed primary control of all aircraft in the area. The first enemy action occurred on March 8, 1944 when an AWS-1 radar detected enemy aircraft. The first successful intercept came on the night of April 14, when AWS-1 directed Marine F-4U night fighters resulting in two enemy planes being shot down.

From April 21 to June 30, 1945, the unit participated in the Okinawa Campaign. Radar controlled intercepts tallied 62 kills by the end of the campaign. After the Japanese surrender, AWS-1 was ordered to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, on April 14, 1946. It was redesignated Marine Ground



Control Intercept Squadron-1 (MGCIS-1) in August 1946. The squadron relocated to Marine Corps Base Pendleton during July 1947.

In response to the demands of the Korean War, MGCIS-1 boarded the USS General Anderson on July 14, 1950, and deployed to Korea. MGCIS-1 landed at Inchon, Korea, Sept. 17, 1950. The squadron moved to Yon-Po to provide surveillance, guide lost aircraft to radar-equipped landing fields, and direct air support aircraft to Direct Air Support Center (DASC) forward air controllers.

A detachment transferred to a warship to detect strikes, flights, and rescues. The remainder of the squadron went to K-1 Airfield at Pusan, Korea, on Dec. 17, 1950.

MGCIS-1 moved to a 3,000-foot peak called Chon-San during March 1951 to assume air surveillance responsibility for the Pusan area. On October 18, 1951, the squadron moved to Kunsan, Korea, where it would remain until April 8, 1955.

While in Korea, MGCIS-1 operated from Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, and the East Central and Western Fronts. The squadron also participated in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone. On February 15, 1954, Marine Ground Control Intercept Squadron-1 was redesignated as Marine Air Control Squadron-1. Fourteen months later, during April 1955, MACS-1 redeployed to Atsugi, Japan.

On March 1, 1960, the squadron departed Japan and returned to the





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United States and was based at the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station Yuma. The squadron participated in various training exercises and provided radar controlled air intercept training to Marine Corps aviation units.

On Feb. 1, 1972, MACS-1 was deactivated at MCAS Yuma.

After a 12-year hiatus, MACS-1 was reactivated Oct. 7, 1983, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The activation of MACS-1 doubled the air control capability of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Additionally, MACS-1 was designated the test squadron for the AN/TYQ-23, Tactical Air Operations Module (TAOM), a new air control system developed for the Marine Corps.

The operational testing was successfully completed in October 1986. From that time until the present, MACS-1 has deployed in numerous Fleet Marine Force exercises, both overseas and in the United States.

From Aug. 15, 1990, through Oct. 17, 1990, MACS-1 deployed as part of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) to Southwest Asia (SWA), in support of Operation Desert Shield. While deployed to SWA, MACS-1 provided early warning to all MAGTF (FWD) units and played a key role in designing air space management procedures and the operation of data links. Upon MACS-1's return to Camp Pendleton, a detachment of Marines was designated to remain in support of

Operation Desert Storm. Detachment 'A' remained in SWA until March 20, 1991.

MACS-1 completed six years of garrison and field-testing of the TAOM on March 27, 1992. MACS-1 deployed the first TAOM to Roving Sands in 1992, and in 1994 supported Tactical Ballistic Missile testing in exercises at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., and McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, Texas.

On June 26, 1998, MACS-1 moved to MCAS Yuma, joined with MACS-7 (Rein), and collectively reorganized and redesignated themselves as MACS-1 (Rein).

The squadron now consists of its Headquarters and six detachments: Headquarters and Service Detachment, Tactical Air Operations Center Detachment, Early Warning and Control Center Detachment, and Air Traffic Control Detachment C, located at MCAS Yuma; Air Traffic Control Detachment A, located at Camp Pendleton, California; and Air Traffic Control Detachment B, located at MCAS Miramar, California. The squadron headquarters is located at the Cannon Air Defense Complex, which is approximately seven miles southeast of MCAS Yuma.

MACS-1 has recently been a major component to the Air Campaigns in Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, with the deployment of several components to theater in two major waves, from November 2002 to June 2003. MACS-1 also orchestrated the conception of Kill-box Interdiction Close Air Support (KI/CAS) operations, and the Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Teams (MMTs) in Iraq during OIF.

The squadron administrative office may be contacted by calling (928) 269-3905.



Marine Fighter Training Squadron - 401

Marine Fighter Training Squadron-401, a component of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, was activated at MCAS Yuma March 18, 1986. The squadron's mission is to improve the Marine Corps' air-to-air combat readiness by employing current threat tactics against Marine pilots.





The “Snipers” of VMFT-401 are mostly Marine Corps Reserve pilots serving in Active Reserve or weekend drill status. Flying the F-5E and F-5N Tiger II aircraft, they provide realistic training for Marine, Air Force and Navy pilots using dissimilar aggressor aircraft tactics. The F-5’s appearance and flight characteristics enable the “Snipers” to simulate various types of threat aircraft. VMFT-401, the only aggressor squadron in the Marine Corps, takes part in Marine training exercises at Yuma and throughout the United States.

Maintenance for the squadron’s aircraft is provided by contract with Sikorsky Support Services, Inc. The squadron is located in Building 146, and its administrative section can be reached at (928) 269-5502.



Combat Service Support Detachment - 16

Combat Service Support Detachment-16 is a subordinate element of the 1st Force Service Support Group based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The mission of CSSD-16 is to provide combat service support to Fleet Marine force units stationed or training in the vicinity of Yuma and to provide direct support to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 during the semi-annual Weapons and Tactics Instructor courses.

CSSD-16 was activated on Oct. 1, 1988, as Detachment C, 1st FSSG, and later redesignated as CSSD-16, 1st FSSG, on Dec. 27, 1989.

The detachment provides intermediate supply support and maintenance support for engineer, motor transport, and ordnance equipment. CSSD-13 Marines and Sailors also serve aboard the Air Station at the Law Center, the Military Post Office, and the Disbursing Office.

With a unit strength of about 80 Marines and sailors, CSSD-16 is headquartered in Building 610. For more information, contact the unit at (928) 269-2521.



Local Attractions

Yuma

It would be difficult to find a winter climate more suitable to outdoor activities than Yuma's. Temperatures hover in the 70s and the humidity readings are among the lowest in the nation. Bright sunshine and clean air allows a view of mountains in all directions.

Yuma's rich history offers a variety of options for those seeking to learn about the Old West. In the 1850s, the Yuma Crossing was the gateway to California for gold seekers. The Yuma Territorial Prison State Park and Quartermaster Depot top the list of sites most visited by tourists.



Military personnel assigned to Yuma will find the community both supportive and friendly. Quarterly "block parties" and other special events on the downtown mall are excellent opportunities to get out and meet the locals.

Yuma is surrounded by fantastic wildlife viewing areas. Betty's Kitchen Interpretive Trail, located off Avenue 7E, is a popular spot for bird watchers and bluegill fishermen. Largemouth bass, stripers and channel catfish are plentiful in Mitry Lake and the Colorado River. Hunters come to Yuma from all over the West to enjoy the abundance of dove and quail.

There are also three National Wildlife Refuges within an hour's drive. The Cibola, Imperial and Kofa National Wildlife Refuges provide hiking trails with signs identifying points of interest and types of plants. The Imperial Sand Dunes, just across the California border, offer plenty of space for both off-roading and camping in the desert.

Whether hunting, fishing, watching wildlife or just enjoying the beautiful sunsets, you'll find Yuma is an outdoor wonderland.

Lake Havasu

Just 163 miles north of Yuma, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is fast gaining a reputation among travelers as the vacation destination in the Southwest. In today's economy more and more travelers are searching for alternatives to stretch vacation dollars. Lake Havasu appeals to vacationers from all over the country with year-round sunshine, four golf courses, water and desert recreation, a variety of hotel/condo style accommodations, modern RV parks from which to choose, and of course, the world famous London Bridge.

Unique shops, boutiques, discount centers, cultural and night life diversity and restaurants that appeal to everyone from the gourmet diner to the budget conscious family add to Lake Havasu's appeal.

Endless days of sunshine, clear blue skies and spectacular sunsets turn the rugged mountain skyline into flaming red and orange.

For more information, contact the Lake Havasu Area Visitor and Convention Bureau at 1-800-242-8278 or write them at 1930 Mesquite Ave., Suite. 3, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403.





LOCAL ATTRACTIONS



Mexico

Most visitors to Yuma enjoy a trip across the border to Mexico. No foreign country except Canada is easier to visit. United States citizens do not need passports for visits less than 72 hours within 75 miles of the border. For longer stays or travel farther into Mexico, a tourist card may be obtained free, with proof of U.S. citizenship, from Mexican consulates, tourism offices and some travel agencies.

When visiting Mexico, current station policy requires all personnel to travel

with friends and obey the laws and customs of the locals. Additionally, station policy requires all E-5s and below to obtain a liberty chit five days prior to visiting Mexico. The military police maintain a liaison with Mexican police officials and the U.S. Border Patrol.

San Luis, south of Yuma on Highway 95, is the largest city along the border in Sonora, Mexico. Shopping holds a special appeal for most visitors. Park on the U.S. side and walk into Mexico.

Algodones, seven miles to the southwest, is the closest Mexican town to Yuma. Take

Interstate 8 west to the Algodones/Andrade Exit and proceed south (left) for about three miles. It's a good place to enjoy lunch and limited shopping. Again, park and walk across the border.

El Golfo Santa Clara, located 70 miles south of San Luis, draws large holiday crowds, which converge to ride all-terrain vehicles on the seemingly endless beaches and camp under the stars near the Sea of Cortez. Accommodations are very limited, with beach camping recommended for the experienced. Street signs mark the way along the 2 1/2-hour drive. Americans are advised to buy Mexican auto insurance and carry bottled water.

Mexicali is a winter sunspot just across the border from California's Imperial Valley. Mexicali, the seat of government for Baja, California, is unique among border cities in that its size and economic strength are not the result of proximity to the United States or tourism. The hub of a major agricultural region, it offers hundreds of stores, shops and a metropolitan night life.

Phoenix

One of the world's premier leisure destinations, Phoenix is soon to be the fifth





largest city in the U.S. with more than 1.3 million residents and growing. It is located about 180 miles east of Yuma.

Residents and tourists alike enjoy more than 300 sunshine-filled days in a metropolis appropriately dubbed the Valley of the Sun.

With nearly 200 golf courses dotting the landscape, golf rules in the recreational department. But amidst all that thirsty greenery still sits the Sonoran Desert's most obvious amenity - the naturally rugged, yet beautiful terrain.

Thousands of acres of dry mountain preserve and cacti-enriched hillsides offer challenging trails for the Valley's hikers, bikers and horseback riders. During the spring, this same rugged terrain transforms into a colorful palette of wild-flower-packed scenery that is frequently captured on photograph and canvas.

Mild weather conditions also allow for a variety of air sports, like soaring over the Sonoran Desert in a two-seat glider or lofting above the rural areas in a hot air balloon operated by one of many companies offering daily flights.

Innertubing down the Salt River also offers a surprisingly cool diversion from the summer heat. The state's Urban

Fishing Program provides yet another diversion - fishing inside city parks - and the Valley's resorts offer a splashing good time poolside.

Twenty-three communities, including four of the oldest - Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe - offer a wide range of activities, dining, shopping and cultural events. Scottsdale, long described as the West's Most Western Town, ranks as one of the top tourist destinations in America. Some of the Phoenix/Scottsdale/Tempe area attractions include: the Desert Botanical Garden, featuring displays of 10,000 fascinating desert plants living in a 150-acre natural setting; and Rawhide, an authentic 1880s Boomtown, complete with western dining, shops, street shows, saloon, stagecoach, pony rides and much more.

Phoenix is also home to several sporting events. The Phoenix Suns NBA franchise arrived first. Professional hockey, soccer, arena football, and NFL football followed. The most recent arrival was the Arizona Diamondbacks. The team, which plays at a state-of-the-art baseball stadium, recently won the World Series in 2001. Other sports include the PGA's Phoenix Open, Arizona State University college athletics, Tostitos Fiesta Bowl in

Tempe and Scottsdale's Parada del Sol rodeo. Nine Major League Baseball teams also conduct spring training here, including two recent additions - the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers.

To learn more about visiting Phoenix and the Valley of the Sun, call 1-877-225-5749 or write: Phoenix Visitors Bureau, 1 Arizona Center, 400 E. Van Buren St., Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85004-2290.

San Diego

San Diego is a seaside city located about 180 miles west of Yuma. The climate and culture are two of the many attributes which have enabled San Diego to often be referred to as "America's Finest City." With beaches, deserts and mountains in close proximity to one another, visitors will never be at a loss for a variety of fun things to do.

The world famous San Diego Zoo features 800 species, many of which are rare and endangered. Other attractions include the Tiger River tour, botanical gardens and the reptile house. Adjacent to the Zoo is Balboa Park, which offers a variety of museums and attractions. Nearby is Old Town San Diego, providing a look back



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

into San Diego's history in addition to affordable shopping for all of your souvenir needs. More shopping can be done throughout the San Diego area including the many large malls and local gift shops.

Near Mission Beach is the popular Sea World of California, which features attractions such as Shark Encounter, Forbidden Reef, Wild Arctic, and Manatee Rescue. Sea World also hosts more than 60 trained birds from six continents and Shamu, the world's most lovable killer whale.

For spectator sports enthusiasts, San Diego offers a multitude of events including San Diego Padres professional baseball, San Diego Chargers pro football, and the San Diego State University Aztecs. The San Diego Gulls, a minor league hockey team, play in the Sports Arena. The city also hosts thoroughbred horse racing at Del Mar, motocross racing, and has 13 major golf courses.

Art and entertainment is available in the more than 40 theaters throughout San Diego. The downtown area is the aesthetic hub of the city, with the Lyceum Theater, Sixth Avenue Playhouse and Gas Lamp Quarter Theater. All are located within walking distance of each other. The city is also home to the 81-member San Diego Symphony.

Some of the local sight-seeing companies include Baja Expeditions, Burbury Wine Tours, Old Town Trolley Tours, San Diego Sea Planes, as well as five hot air ballooning establishments.

For more information about the San Diego area, call (619) 236-1212, or write to the International Visitor Information Center at 1st Ave and F St., 11 Horton Plaza, Horton Plaza Shopping Center Downtown San Diego, CA., 92101.

Tucson

Tucson is truly a city of diversity. Located 300 miles east of Yuma on Interstate 8, it is surrounded by lush deserts, cool mountain forests and a historical mixture of many cultures, which have made it a modern metropolis.

Popular one-day excursions are offered by air and ground to many famous sites, such as Old Pueblo, Tombstone and the scientific space experiment - Biosphere 2. Visitors are encouraged to experience the thrill and sensation of driving on ice at the Desert Ice Raceway, or watch the races at the Malibu Grand Prix.

The warm climate year-round makes Tucson ideal for sports; especially golf, which can be enjoyed on any of the city's 35 golf courses. Other popular pastimes for sports enthusiasts include greyhound racing, horseback riding, tennis, and attending University of Arizona athletic events.

One major attraction which brings tourism to Tucson is the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, which features educational star theater programs, laser light shows and walk-through asteroid exhibits. Another is the Pima Air & Space Museum, with more than 180 aircraft documenting America's aviation history. Additional sites to see include the Reid Park Zoo, Kitt Peak National Observatory, Old Tucson Studios, and Colossal Cave Mountain Park.

For more information about Tucson, contact the Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau, at 130 South Scott Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701, or call (602) 624-1817.

